

this issue

P.1 Wyoming State Parks ADA Transition Plan

P.2 Wyoming State Parks Mobility Chair

P.2 Teton Adaptive

P.3 FREE Tax Preparation

P.3 Upcoming Conferences

P.4 Food Security Listening Sessions

ACCESS FOR ALL

Wyoming State Parks Shoshone District ADA Transition Plan

The Wyoming State Parks Shoshone District Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan will create a blueprint for the unit to enhance accessibility throughout its parks facilities as well as their programs and services well into the next decade. The process is all about ensuring everyone—no matter their ability—can fully navigate our public spaces and activities. With your help and input, we can identify accessibility gaps and envision inclusive Wyoming State Parks.

Altura Solutions, LLC. has been selected to create the Wyoming State Parks Shoshone District Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. Altura will evaluate the Shoshone District facilities, programs, and services for ADA compliance. The resulting report will reflect the current state of the District's facilities, address existing architectural and program barriers, and detail future steps for improvement and implementation. Shoshone District Parks & Facilities include Bear River State Park, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Seminoe State Park, Sinks Canyon State Park, and South Pass City State Historic Site.

Join in shaping the future of accessibility in Wyoming State Parks. Take the community survey and share your thoughts on how Wyoming State Parks can improve accessibility for all individuals. Together, we can ensure that Wyoming State Parks are inclusive and accessible for all.

Take the survey at www.accessforall-wyoparks.com.

Questions, comments, and concerns can also be submitted by email to access@alturalp.com.

Source: www.accessforall-wyoparks.com



Get Outdoors

Mobility Chair Assistance in Wyoming's State Parks

If you're looking to go explore the rugged terrains that are often out of accessible reach for regular wheelchairs, you'll love that Wyoming state parks are among 18 state parks in the nation to have received a specialized chair—the **TrackMaster Series 2 mobility chair**, designed with mighty rubber tracks that allow travelers with mobility challenges to relish the great outdoors. Instead of traditional wheels, the motorized device has big, durable rubber tracks, which helps it go places where normal wheelchairs can't.

The agency received the chair through a grant from the Ford Bronco Wild Fund and administered by the America's State Parks Foundation. The goal is to increase access to parks and outdoor recreation opportunities for those with mobility challenges.

Reserve one for free, on a first-come, first-served basis, when you come to explore South Pass City State Historic Site and Bear River and Seminoe State Parks. The three locations were chosen to make it as easy as possible to move the chair from one location to another – and because the sites were most compatible with the chair's dimensions. To learn more about the TrackMaster chair or to reserve a date to use the device, contact kyle.bernis@wyo.gov.

Ramp Project — Wyoming State Parks is also working to increase accessibility in other parks throughout the state. They recently completed a six-month project to install ramps at Ames Monument Historic Site outside of Laramie and also have electric mobility scooters at Fort Bridger State Historic Site by Evanston.

Interested in fishing? Five of Wyoming's state parks have fishing piers that feature accessible options: Curt Gowdy State Park, Hot Springs State Park, Edness K. Wilkins State Park, Seminoe State Park, and Medicine Lodge Archaeological Site.

Wyoming State Parks also offers adaptive recreation opportunities at Curt Gowdy State Park through **Adaptive Adventures**. Adaptive Adventures provides equipment and adaptations to help people with disabilities participate in outdoor activities.

Sources: <https://travelwyoming.com/blog/stories/post/outdoor-wheelchair-accessibility-wyoming/>; <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/natural-resources-energy/2023-12-12/wyoming-state-parks-receives-a-new-all-terrain-mobility-chair-to-help-get-more-visitors-outside/>; <https://adaptiveadventures.org/>

Teton Adaptive is a nonprofit organization focused on adaptive outdoor recreation located in Jackson Hole, Wyoming not far from Grand Teton National Park.

Founder Joe Stone uses a wheelchair after injuring his spine and personally developed and tested the outdoor programs and activities. He realizes the importance for wheelchair users to enjoy doing things outside, and with adaptive equipment, anything is possible.

Teton Adaptive offers adaptive recreational activities during the winter and summer months, including but not limited to skiing, hiking, mountain hand-cycling, paragliding, river rafting, fishing, and more. Multiple kinds of mountain hand-cycles are available, including one that's child-size. Paragliding with Teton Adaptive features a custom-built wheelchair so someone can comfortably ride, fly, and perhaps most importantly, land safely. Whether mountain hand-cycling or paragliding, wheelchairs are safely stored until the activity is completed. If needed, instructors can assist with transferring. Also, a wheelchair accessible toilet and roll-in shower with grab-bars are available in the Teton Adaptive office.

Source: <https://wheelchairtraveling.com/wyoming-jackson-hole-teton-adaptive-sports-wheelchair-travel/>

If you need help...

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) A United Way Collaborative

Free Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing

MyFreeTaxes helps people who earn \$84,000 or less file their federal and state taxes for free while getting the assistance they need. United Way provides MyFreeTaxes in partnership with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help filers prepare their returns on their own or have their return prepared for them.

United Way Worldwide, a nonprofit organization, operates MyFreeTaxes and is committed to ensuring that filers can easily and accurately file tax returns to receive deserved refunds. For millions of Americans, tax refunds and credits are essential to their financial stability and success. That's why United Way helps people file their taxes for free to save more of their hard-earned money. So far, more than 1.4 million people have used MyFreeTaxes, saving some \$260 million in tax preparation fees.

The MyFreeTaxes Helpline is staffed by dedicated call specialists who are IRS VITA program trained and certified. Helpline call specialists are available to answer questions about MyFreeTaxes, help troubleshoot issues that may occur while using the tax filing software, and answer certain tax questions that arise while completing a return through MyFreeTaxes.

The best way to guarantee that you are using free tax preparation software is to start at MyFreeTaxes.com, select the "File Myself" option, answer the questions, and choose "File Now."

Source: www.myfreetaxes.com

Common Tax Situations

Covered in MyFreeTaxes Include:

- W-2 Income
- Self-Employment Income (Schedule C and 1099)
- Mortgage Interest Deduction
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)
- Limited Interest and Dividend Income Reported on a 1099-INT or 1099-DIV
- Unemployment Income
- Student Education Expenses and Credits
- Student Loan Interest
- Claiming the Standard Deduction
- Itemized Returns
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC)
- Child Tax Credits
- Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- Non-Resident Returns
- Amended Tax Returns

Wyoming 211 is Hosting a Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Conference

*BRIDGING THE GAP --
Connecting Healthcare & Communities for Wellness*

May 6-8, 2025
8:30am – 4:30pm

Best Western Downtown
123 West E Street
Casper, WY

What to Expect...

CommUNITY – Coming Together
Community Resource Building
SDOH Education Topics

COMING
SOON!

Guest Speakers, Breakout Room Sessions,
Vendor Fair, Parent Social Hour

Parent Information Center Conference

featuring...
Karen Mayer Cunningham
Special Education Boss

August 2, 2025
8am – 5pm

Best Western Downtown
123 West E Street
Casper, WY

Let's Talk About...

Inclusive Food Security for People with IDD

Through a \$300,000 two-year research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of New Hampshire research team aims to understand food security among the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) population. The research team includes researchers at the UNH Institute on Disability and researchers at the Center for Nutrition and Health Impact.

The term "food insecure" is a term that describes people who lack access to the food they need to live an active and healthy life. People with IDD face unique food insecurity challenges that are not well understood. Some of the possible challenges they may face include a lack of sufficient money to purchase nutritious food, a lack of accessible and reliable transportation to purchase food, or a lack of accessible grocery stores.

The long-term goal for this project is to inform implementation guidance for intervening and measuring food security among persons with IDD. Year 1 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) will focus on conducting a formative qualitative study, in collaboration with a stakeholder advisory committee and utilizing a participatory approach, with approximately 30 people with IDD and their family members to understand their food insecurity experiences.

You can help! Share your story about getting enough food!

Has anyone ever told you that you have an intellectual and developmental disability?
Are you or is your home having trouble getting enough food?

Interested individuals should visit <https://tinyurl.com/jr2jbpuw> to fill out a form requesting contact to answer questions and share stories about getting food. Eligible individuals should be 18 years or older, live in the United States, and have an intellectual and/or developmental disability or be a parent/guardian/caretaker of someone with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

Contact Grace at IFIDD@centerfornutrition.org if you have questions.

Source: <https://iod.unh.edu/food-nutrition-security-among-people-disabilities/inclusive-food-security-people-idd-ifidd>



MISSION STATEMENT

To establish, expand, protect, and enforce the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities through administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies.

CONTACT US

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Cheyenne, WY 82009
307.632.3496 voice or relay
800.624.7648 clients only
307.638.0815 fax
www.wypanda.com

save the date

Events hosted by the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Annual Artists' Gala

June 13, 2025
3:00-6:00 p.m.

The Metropolitan Downtown
Cheyenne, WY

Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference

October 8-10, 2025

The Red Lion Hotel
Cheyenne, WY